

Town of Southington Commission on DisAbility

August 12, 2008 meeting minutes

Call meeting to order: 6:20 p.m.

Roll Call: John Noel, Wesley Babkirk, Lyn Johnson

Terry Dickinson, Wilton Hawes

Excused absences: Wendy Henderson, Eileen LeBlanc

Unexcused absences: Karen Cavanaugh, Sharon Neupaver

Determination of Quorum: Yes

Public Forum: None

Minutes from last meeting: Minutes of June meeting were accepted as read. There was no meeting in July.

Motion to accept: Wilton Hawes Seconded: Lyn Johnson

Correspondence: Six respite care applications were received.

Financial Report: All our respite care money from last year's 2007/2008 budget was dispersed. No receipts for expenditures were submitted this month. Our new budget for the year 2008/2009 has been approved. John checked the playground account and Jiggy from the Parks and Rec Dept. has taken the balance of this account to help pay for the accessible picnic tables at the Rainbow Playground as agreed. This account is now at zero.

Motion to accept: Wilton Hawes Seconded: Lyn Johnson

Old Business: Transportation: Lyn suggested that we get a group of people to go to a town council meeting to advocate for a public bus route in town and bring more awareness to this issue. Wilton suggested that we develop a format to get feedback from the community. John suggested that we contact the D.O.T. to see if they had any ideas on how to move this issue forward.

Tri-town bus route: Lyn contacted Louis Perillo III Southington's economic development coordinator for more information on this project. Lynn will put together a packet of information for him that will include a CD of our transportation forum we held last year. He thought the tri-town route was a good idea and will give Lyn the names and phone numbers of the people in Meriden and Cheshire he's working with on this project.

Transportation Conference: John and Wilton attended a workshop on transportation at the Hartford Expo Center on May 15th. We learned that it's basically up to our town manager and the town council whether or not we get the ball rolling so that our town can get public transportation.

Respite Care: We have received several new respite care application. They will be reviewed at our September meeting. Wendy will do a follow-up report to the Main Street Foundation regarding their \$3,000 respite grant. She should have this done by our next meeting.

Poster Contest: The poster contest will be held in October and the judging done in November. Terry said she will be getting the supplies at Staples and putting together the packets to be handed out to each elementary in town. This project is limited to 5th graders. Terry said she will be calling the board of education to set this up. A suggestion was made that we increase the amount of the savings bonds awarded to the winners this year. This will be voted on at a future meeting.

Motion to accept: Wes Babkirk Seconded: Lyn Johnson

New Business:

Camp Sloper Accessibility: John wrote a letter to Mark Pooler director of YMCA Camp Sloper. He was offered our support in his efforts to get a grant to make the walking trail around the pond accessible to people in wheel chairs. He was also asked to consider making provision for people who could not walk to be able to get into the pond to go swimming.

Historical Society Building: John sent a letter to the town council members regarding putting a ramp in to make the building more accessible. There is no way for a wheel chair user to gain access. The town has given the historical society tens of thousands of dollars for renovations, but has not allocated any money towards a ramp. So far we have heard back from two town council members who said they would look into it.

Workshops: Wilton proposed that members who go to workshops on behalf of the commission on disability, be compensated for their gas mileage. John will contact our town attorney regarding this matter.

Motion to accept: Lyn Johnson Seconded: Terry Dickinson

Next Meeting: Tuesday Sept 9th, 2008 at the Southington Water Department at 6:00 p.m.

Motion made to adjourn: Wilton Hawes Seconded: Terry Dickinson

Meeting adjourned: 7:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: John Noel Secretary/Treasurer